

REMARKS

In light of the above amendments and remarks to follow, entry of this amendment and reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 8-9 and 11 are pending in this application.

Claims 1, 8-9 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamada (U.S. Patent 6,996,764) in view of Saito (U.S. Patent 4,866,692) or Uchiyama (U.S. Patent No. 5,175,545).

The independent claims have been amended to recite, in relevant part, that "the second finite state transition diagram includes states defined based on values, and whether a polarity is inverted or not, of a non-return to zero coding of states in a first finite state transition table." (emphasis added) (See specification, for example, at pg. 17, ln. 13-21).

Although Yamada appears to describe a PR-channel APP decoder, the applied portions of Yamada do not appear to disclose or suggest combined decoding of equalized, turbo encoded data where states of a second finite state transition diagram, which is a combination of a first finite state transition diagram and intersymbol interference, are in accordance with whether a polarity is inverted or not of a non-return to zero coding of states in a first finite state transition table, as required by the claimed invention. Saito or Uchiyama, alone or in combination, do not cure the deficiencies of Yamada regarding the requirements of the claimed invention.

Accordingly, for at least this reason, the combinations of Yamada with Saito or Uchiyama fail to meet this limitation and the rejected claims should now be allowed.

Application No.: 10/780,191

Docket No.: SONYJP 3.0-1059

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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